

**National Patriotic Instruction
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

April 2024

PATRIOTS' DAY

Patriots' Day is an annual event, formalized as a legal holiday or a special observance day in the states of Massachusetts, Maine, Florida, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and North Dakota. It commemorates the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Menotomy in 1775, some of the first battles of the Revolutionary War. The holiday occurs on the third Monday of April each year, except in Florida and Wisconsin, which observe it on April 19th, the actual anniversary of the battles. Celebrations include battle reenactments and the Boston Marathon. The following is a 19th Century poem commemorating the day:

The Nineteenth of April

by Joseph A. Watson

What old North Ender, born below
The chimes of Christ Church steeple,
But feels within his bosom glow
The soul of those brave people.

Who, farther back than "seventy-six,"
Were vexed about some taxes,
And put King George in such a fix
By stirring tea with axes!

A hundred years and more have fled
Since, on that April morning,
Men, numbered never with the dead,
Heard Paul Revere's bold warning.

Ah, those true men who shed their blood,
On heights lived, not in hollows;
And on the "bridge that arched the flood"
They fired – you know what follows.

What dearer thing by poets sung –
Its spirit shines unruined –
Than the "ole queen's-arm that Gran'ther
Young
Fetched back from Concord busted"?

But though 'tis busted, I aver
It speaks right on forever:
"Be patriots as your grandsires were!
Be less than free men never!"

This month, let us remember those patriots of 1775 that, in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, fired the "shot heard round the world!"

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
National Patriotic Instructor